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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 05:34:22 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

September 01, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 3973 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: ASSASSINATION OF AYATOLLAH MUHAMAD
BAQR AL HAKIM
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 03973

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCADI992
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #3973 2441120
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 011120Z SEP 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1487
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0705
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0749
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

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SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH, MHAMBLEY; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ASSASSINATION OF AYATOLLAH MUHAMAD
BAQR AL HAKIM

¶1. SUMMARY: THE ASSASSINATION OF AYATOLLAH MUHAMAD BAQR AL HAKIM IN NAJAF, IRAQ, THE UAE'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION, AND THE SITUATION IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES DOMINATED COVERAGE IN THE UAE MEDIA. EDITORIALS IN "AL KHALEEJ," "AL ITTIHAD," AND "AKHBAR AL ARAB" COMMENTED ON THE SITUATION IN IRAQ FOLLOWING AYATOLLAH AL HAKIM'S ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY.

¶2. THE UAE'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF AYATOLLAH AL HAKIM WAS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY 8/31, CARRIED FULL TEXT IN ALL ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES, AND READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HAS TOTALLY CONDEMNED THE CRIMINAL ATTACK WHICH LED TO THE KILLING OF AYATOLLAH MOHAMMED BAQIR AL HAKIM AND A NUMBER OF INNOCENT IRAQIS IN NAJAF LAST FRIDAY, AN OFFICIAL SOURCE FROM THE UAE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID. THIS CRIMINAL ATTACK, WHICH OCCURRED IN ONE OF MUSLIMS' MOST SACRED PLACES AND ON THE IMAM OF THE MOSQUE OF IMAM ALI BIN ABI TALIB, IS AN ATTACK ON ALL MUSLIMS AND A DESECRATION OF THE HOLY SHRINE AND VALUES OF MUSLIMS. IT IS ALSO A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO SOW THE SEED OF DISCORD AND CONFLICT AMONG THE IRAQI PEOPLE, THE SOURCE SAID."

"THE SOURCE ADDED THAT THE ATTACK DID NOT ONLY TARGET AYATOLLAH BAQIR AL HAKIM BUT ALSO AIMED AT KILLING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE FOR A BETTER FUTURE BY DESTROYING THE SINCERE EFFORTS TOWARDS NATIONAL UNITY IN IRAQ AND THE EFFORTS OF THE COUNTRY'S SINCERE SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO RESTORE SECURITY AND STABILITY THROUGHOUT IRAQ."

"THE SOURCE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE IRAQI RULING COUNCIL, TO OVERCOME THIS ORDEAL BY SAFEGUARDING THE NATIONAL UNITY OF IRAQ SO AS TO DENY THE MISCHIEVOUS CRIMINALS, WHO ARE TOYING WITH IRAQ'S SECURITY AND STABILITY, THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THEIR MISCHIEVOUS OBJECTIVE. THE SOURCE PRAYS TO GOD TO GRANT THE SOUL OF AYATOLLAH BAQIR AL HAKIM AND THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE ATTACK PERFECT PEACE AND TO PROTECT IRAQ AND ITS PEOPLE FROM ALL EVILS."

¶3. ASSESSING THE EFFECT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF AYATOLLAH AL HAKIM ON IRAQ AND THE IRAQI PEOPLE, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 9/01:

"... YESTERDAY, THE UAE CONFIRMED THAT THIS UGLY CRIME TARGETED NOT ONLY AYATOLLAH AL HAKIM BUT ALSO ASSASSINATED THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE FOR A BETTER FUTURE, AND THAT WAS BY STRIKING ITS (IRAQ'S) NATIONAL UNITY AND THE EFFORTS OF ITS LOYAL PEOPLE TO RE-ESTABLISH STABILITY AND SECURITY ... THESE POSITIONS (OF AYATOLLAH AL HAKIM) ARE WHAT THE COMMITTEES OF THE NAJAF MASSACRE TARGETED. THEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE INSTABILITY WHICH IRAQ IS DROWNING IN BECAUSE OF THE OCCUPATION'S DELIBERATE DELAY IN HANDING OVER THE COUNTRY TO THE IRAQIS. ABDULAZIZ AL HAKIM DESCRIBED THIS STRATEGY YESTERDAY AS INEFFECTIVE AND IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BLOODSHED IN IRAQ ..."

¶4. COMMENTING ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN IRAQ, ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 9/01:

"... THE ONLY COLORFUL PICTURE AMONG ALL THESE NEGATIVES IS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME AND ALL ITS MANIFESTATIONS ... THERE IS NO ARGUMENT THAT THE SOONER THE IRAQIS HANDLE THEIR OWN ISSUES THE SOONER THE DANGERS THAT THREATEN THEIR COUNTRY WILL MINIMIZE ... THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL, WHICH HAS BEEN FORMED A MONTH AGO, HAS PROVEN THAT THE IRAQIS ARE ABLE TO RULE THEMSELVES WITHOUT ANY GUARDIANSHIP ..."

¶5. ASSERTING THAT THE NAJAF MASSACRE MAY LEAD TO CIVIL WAR IN IRAQ, ABU DHABI-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AKHBAR AL ARAB" EDITORIALIZED 9/01:

"... THIS (THE ASSASSINATION) WILL LEAD THE COUNTRY INTO A HURRICANE OF CRAZY VIOLENCE JUST LIKE THE CIVIL WARS IN LEBANON AND AFGHANISTAN THAT WILL PREVENT THE COUNTRY FROM ESCAPING THIS BLIND VIOLENCE, AND ALL THE COUNTRY'S RESOURCES WILL BE DESTROYED IN THIS HURRICANE ..."

ALBRIGHT